

FDD 68

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SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO. COUNTRY East GermanyTOPIC KVP NCO Tank School in Zeithain

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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PREPARED

19 August 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The KVP NCO tank school in Zeithain was subordinate to the KVPD in Leipzig I of the Ministry of the Interior in Berlin on orders of the ministry given in mid-April 1953. ¹ The unit consisted of 2 headquarters with 50 officers, 40 NCOs and 35 personnel; a company of 12 officers, 50 NCOs; a motor transport company consisting of 3 officers, 10 NCOs and 10 personnel; an infirmary with 1 NCO and 7 personnel; a band with 6 NCOs and 14 personnel; and the 1st and 3d Bn each with 36 officers, 35 NCOs and 330 personnel and the 2d and 4th Bn each with 40 officers, 50 NCOs and 330 personnel.
2. The 1st Bn of the KVP NCO tank school in Zeithain received tank and SP gun driving training, the 2d Bn received gunner's training, the 3d Bn received assistant gunner's training and the 4th Bn received radio training. The training was performed on about 30 T-34/76 tanks and about 20 SU 76. Instruction was given for JS-1 and JS-2 tanks.
3. Officers serving with the KVP NCO tank school in Zeithain included Lieutenant Colonel Fischer (fnu), former tank officer of the German Wehrmacht, as commanding officer, Captain Kalkhofen (fnu) as deputy commanding officer, Captain Schulz (fnu) as PK officer, Captain Pischel (fnu) as chief of staff, Captain Otto (fnu) as commanding officer of the 1st Bn, Captain Hinrichs (fnu) as commanding officer of the 2d Bn, and 3 Soviet liaison officers including 1 major and 2 captains.
4. About 10 x 4-wheel armored reconnaissance cars stored in the garages were available to the school in addition to the tanks and SP guns since May 1953. Ammunition stored in underground facilities included fragmentation shells with special caps fired at light targets such as wooden bunkers; fragmentation shells fired at targets such as attacking infantry; armored piercing shells fired at armored vehicles, AT guns and heavy bunkers; subcaliber projectiles which had a caliber of about 30 mm and were used against heavy armored targets; agitation shells detonating in the air to spread leaflets; tracer shells with tracer composition and parachute; and shrapnels for use in close-combat operations. ²
5. Motor vehicles available to the KVP NCO tank school in Zeithain included 17 ZIS-150 trucks, 8 H-6 trucks, 1 P-1 cross-country car, 1 ambulance, 1 Phaenomen Granit-27 ambulance, 5 BMW sedans, 1 H-6 HG-5 tank car with trailer, 1 H-6 HG-5 tank car, 1 ZIS-150 repair shop truck and 8 AWO motorcycles. Most of the vehicles were in rather poor condition.

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6. Eight hours of political indoctrination per week instead of the previous four hours weekly were given after 17 June 1953. Additional 30 minutes of polit information were given daily. The anti-Western slant of the indoctrination was more pronounced after the June rebellion. There was no slow-down in agitation during the entire period. Also, no subjects pertaining to a reconciliation with the West and imperialism were discussed. KVP personnel had to sign special statements for duty with the KVP following the execution of the Rosenberg Couple and the June rebellion. Source learned that all new KVP recruits had to sign similar statements. No discharges were made. Several KVPs were ejected on criminal charges prior to 17 June. On 17 June, the unit was at the installation. The 1st Co and the 3d Co of the 1st Bn were immediately issued arms and transported to Meissen on eight trucks. They returned on 21 June. On 19 June, the 3d Co of the 2d Bn was loaded onto two trucks and shipped to Riesa where they were entrained onto two cars. They departed toward Chemnitz, leaving details of 1 officer and 4 KVPs at each railroad station and each bridge. These details returned after 48 hours. Source learned that Alert I involved the packing and turning in of full pack, Alert II the packing of full pack left with the individual soldiers and Alert III the issuance of arms and the packing and/or receiving of full pack.
7. The personnel of the KVP NCO tank school in Zeithain was composed of the following age classes: 5 percent of the 1932 class, 25 percent of the 1933 class, 50 percent of the 1934 class and 20 percent of the 1935 class. About 95 percent served for less than 3 years and 5 percent served between 3 and 5 years. Only one man of the unit had to serve for more than 5 years. Forty percent of the personnel came from Saxony, 20 percent from Saxony/Anhalt, 20 percent from Thuringia, 10 percent from Mecklenburg, 7 percent from Brandenburg and 3 percent came from Berlin. Twenty percent were communists, 30 percent were indifferent, 45 percent disliked the regime and 5 percent were opponents.

- 25X1A 1. ☐ Comment. It is believed that the chain of command indicated is definitely incorrect. KVP Leipzig I is a Bereitschaft subordinate to TV 6000. The NCO tank school in Zeithain is believed to be subordinate to the military school administration of the KVP. There is, however, the possibility that KVPD of Leipzig III of TV 6000 provides for service support for the school.
- 25X1A 2. ☐ Comment. Shrapnel shell U Sch-353 was previously reported as ammunition for the 76.2-mm AT gun. Since the description of this shell deviated from the present report, there is reason for believing that the shell mentioned here represent a new type of ammunition.
- 25X1A 3. ☐ Comment. Previous information indicated that soldiers were dismissed with several KVP units after 17 June.

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